IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | Comparison of the comparis

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing of this application or entry into the national stage of this application, or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Applicants wish to note that JP 04-267359 cited on the attached PTO-1449 was cited in a counterpart Chinese patent application by Chinese Patent Office on October 10, 2003. It should be noted that U.S. Patent No. 5,397,744 is in the same family as JP 04-267359. The '744 Patent was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement on July 17, 2003.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initial a copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

1 Costellia

Registration No. 35,483

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(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Complete if Known 10/620,420 Application Number Filing Date July 17, 2003 First Named Inventor Minoru MIYAZAKI et al. Art Unit Examiner Name Attorney Docket Number

740756-2624

			U.S. PATENT DOCUM	IENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date		Pages Calumna Line When
	Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
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	JP 04-267359	09/22/1992	SUMI		AB
	OTHER PRIOR A	ART – NON PATENT L	ITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Cite No.1	Include name of the author	or (in CAPITAL LETTER rnal, serial, symposium, c	S), title of the article (when appropatalog, etc.)., date, page(s), volume	priate), title of the e-issue number(s),	T ²
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	No.1	Cite No.1 Foreign Patent Document Country Code3 Number4 Kind Code3 (if known) JP 04-267359 OTHER PRIOR A	Cite No.1 Foreign Patent Document Kind Code ³ Country Code ³ Number ⁴ (if known) Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY MM-DD-YYYY OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT L Cite No.1 Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTER item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, c	No.¹ Country Code³ Number⁴ Kind Code⁵ (if known) Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document SUMI OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS Cite Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS) title of the article (when approximately support to the author of the a	Cite No. 1 Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

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Examiner	Date
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Signature	Considered
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.